



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**LANTOS JOINS QUEEN NOOR & SENATOR
CLINTON IN RENEWING CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST
LANDMINE VICTIMS**
***Introduces Bill To Fund International Disability
and Landmine Victim Programs***

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to provide assistance to the victims of landmines overseas. The bill, H.R. 1462, authorizes the President to conduct international disability and landmine victims programs and coordinates the activities of the Federal government to care for the victims of landmines overseas. Congressman Lantos is joined by Senator Hillary Clinton and supported by Queen Noor of Jordan in seeking passage of this legislation.

"As our brave American military servicemen and women fight in Iraq, they are at risk of being crippled, maimed, or killed by landmines. These ruthless, hidden killers also claim the lives of thousands of innocent men, women and children in Iraq and across the globe each year. Landmines indiscriminately wreck the lives of family breadwinners, expecting mothers, vulnerable children and all those who may accidentally cross their path. Victims are not only shattered physically, but psychologically as well, as society shuns and stigmatizes them for their disabilities. Landmines are slow motion weapons of mass destruction that leave shattered limbs and lives in their wake," Congressman Lantos said.

The Lantos-sponsored "International Disabilities and Victims of Warfare and Civil Strife Assistance Act of 2003" grants the President new statutory authority to conduct international disability and landmine victim programs, primarily through private organizations; authorizes and coordinates related activities of appropriate U.S. agencies; and authorizes increased funding levels for such programs. Currently, only about 10% of U.S. assistance to address landmines actually helps survivors.

"As we look forward to a more hopeful future, we must not forget those still suffering from the scourge of war. Helping landmines victims is a cause all Americans should - and must - embrace," Congressman Lantos said.

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